

Field Trip No. 3

Durrandandi, via Lobar, return
via Mungindi

4/10/1937 — 21/10/1937

K. H. L. Key

Third Field Trip. [C1703] 121

4/10/37 - 21/10/37.

Sirranbandi, and return via
Cobar, return via Mungindi

⁸⁶ Site 1. Ca 5 ms. along Coot-Stock road.
Austroicetes pusilla
Slight hollows & grassed depressions in short pasture
road-side. Light soil. *Pterala*, *Psachyscarus* &
Phaed. nymphs., unknown nymph, *Pachypro*
Protoporus (prob. *Prasichulus*)

⁹⁷ Site 2. A couple of miles further.
Very similar to site 1 near Parkes.
~~Cedarnia~~ sp. *Pseudostictus* sp. n., *Chortocetes herminifera*,
Red stony ridge, very sparse pasture, few grass.
Austroicetes interioris
5 adult term. Two adult *interioris*
nymphs of *interioris*? *interioris*
Goniatia nymphs.

From Cootamundra north, the country became
much flatter and lighter, the change being very
similar to that between Spring & Greenfield.
Towards Stockinbingal wheat was very
cheaply down and, with some stub. Towards
Kogan wheat was rare, grazing paddocks
being the rule. However, the soil was still
light, being a light red loam. No heavy
soil anywhere to be seen. *Casuarinas* came
in north of Stockinbingal.

⁸⁸ Site 3. Light red loam. Two pasture
samples. Very dry. But few pasture.
Chloris truncata
Danthonia semianularis
Only one *Pseudostictus* seen. Photo 1.

Between Grogan & Moranganell, & between
 there and Barmedman, there were a few
 patches of fairly heavy self-mulching
 dark grey soil. From Barmedman to
 Wyalong the soil at first became
 somewhat heavier, with *Casuarina*
 prominent, also an acacia (photo 3, 2
 not used). Then, within a few miles of
 Wyalong, mallee was encountered.
 No heppers at all were found at the site
 of photo 3. There was a certain amount
 of short pasture.

⁸⁹
 Site 4. A couple of miles W of Wyalong on
 the Lalgagin road. Typical mallee, with
 some sort of bush ca. 6 ft. like one Bush,
 myrtle. Masses of dead fallen branches,
 practically no grass. Soil sample. Photo 4

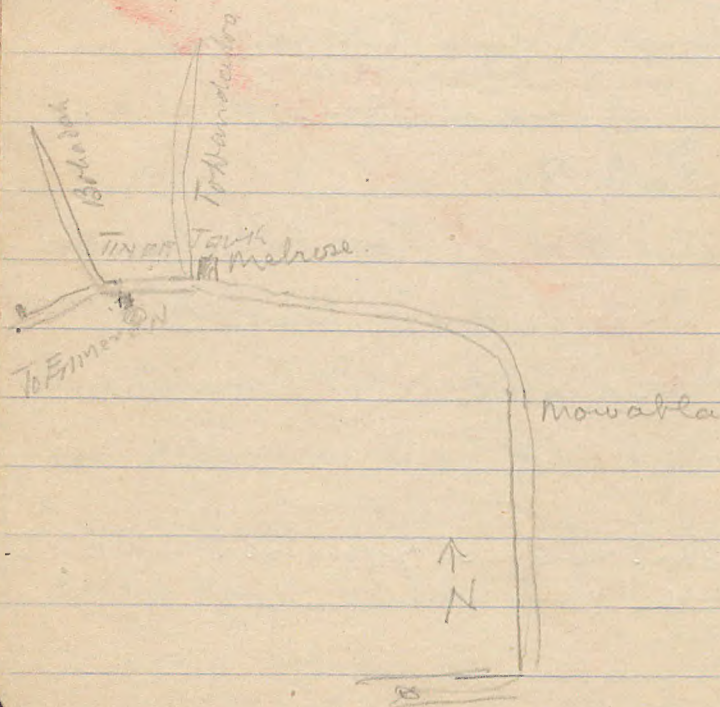
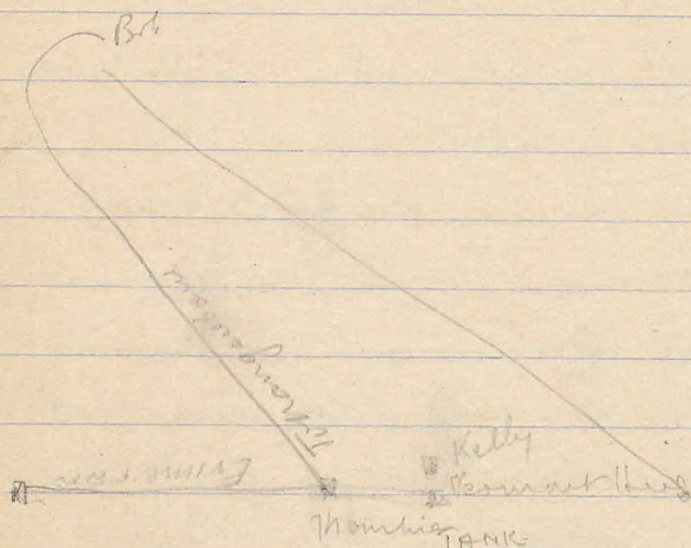
O'Neill took me to Marsden to see
 hatchings there. The mallee was left behind
 in a few miles. All wheat country, probably
 first half. Then heavy grey-brown country,
 better open, with belah, birch & rosewood, few
 gums. Good mixed pasture. Towards

Moraba cultata cultata (R)

(Site 5)

Marsden melon-holes (gilgai), *Hoplocorys*
 congregating in melon-holes adjacent to
 harder caps with bare spaces. Photo.
 5-7 (general view, close up of part of gilgai,
 & general view of gilgai). ^{Grass samples} few plant samples.
 O'Neill said "Clover-moss" is eaten first.
 [Wilson & Co] Lake Cowar. Very like Bogam
 country, sparsely of *Georhamnia* country.
Moraba, *Pedicularis* adults (very few), advanced
Jingi hoppers. A little further on in Wilson's
 place we came to ~~lighter~~ lighter country,
 but open, with helah & horse on the
 margins — right on the edge of the typical
 bland country. Good grass pasture
 plenty open spaces, *Chloris truncata* grass sample.
 Soil samples. (Site 6) Photo 8.

Site 7. ⁹² Ca. 6-7 miles NW of Condaholm.
 Typical mallee with *spinifex*. Sample of
^{*Triodia irritans*} *spinifex*, photos 9 & 10. 2 species *Acridids*
 hiding in *spinifex*, one rare (or) one common
 (very much) very hard to get. Both red-legged.
⁹⁰ *Pycnostictus seriatus*, *Psychotarsus* sp., *Austroicetes*
 Site 8. ⁹⁰ Red stony ridge with white & red quartz
 pebbles. 4 ms. NW of Condaholm. Hardly any
cruciatata 2 ^{*cruciatata*} 25.



⁹⁴ Site 9 Strong ridge a couple of miles further on - more trees. *Odontaspis* nymphs. *Pycnostictus* (1) *Qualetta* (1 nymph).

⁹⁵ Site 10. Moderate open pasture a few miles further on (ca. 6-8 from Cond.). Ringed box, mallee spine. Hard red slightly gravelly soil. *Aristida ramosa* 2 grasses & 2 dicots dominant (samples & photo 11. *Odontaspis* nymphs (just hatched) other nymphs, "Cratichneumon", *A. jingii* nymphs & adults, ~~proctos~~ *Euphorbia* nymph.

Towards Melrose *E. populefolia* comes in. ⁹⁶ Site 11. Rocky hill with starchy grass. *Pycnostictus seriatus*, *Azelota* sp.

5 hrs. beyond Melrose. *Odontaspis* nymphs.

⁹⁷ Site 12. 6 hrs. E of Evreman station. *Austroicetes tenuifera*, *Austroicetes cruciata*, *Peckia fuscotrua*.

Since before Melrose the dominant

grass to the eye has been *Aristida* sp. no. 9.

Red country all the way. box, some pine, some mallee in patches. A very long clump of grass in a wet patch at site 5. also no 9, other grass. Bare spaces.

Photo 12. 3 grass samples. *Austroicetes* *Qualetta* nymph. *A. jingii* (few) *Peckia* (few)

The country continues much the same until about 10-15 mi. E of Selginnia, when natural open grass spaces appear, extend as we go west. No. 9 absolutely dominant. Yucca species still present, but an *acacia* (= *garran* *mulga*) is now dominant. At the same time we have cordantly entered the "gray & brown" soil zone. Soil less red & darker. (sandy)
Apparently correlated with this change *A. junji* became really numerous in places (short grass other than "No. 9").

⁹⁹ Site 13. Just beyond Selginnia. Plain, mostly treeless, No. 9, *garran* *mulga* in distance, red brown soil. Photo 1 of roll 3.

⁹⁹ Site 14. Less miles further. Sudden transition to very stony, purple-brown bare ground with few patches surface soil bearing very thin No. 9 & very slight comb. other grass. *junji* *km* ^{few}.
Qualetta (1) & new genus (2) Photos. 5 & 3. Stone samples a-c. *Qualetta* was found among
[a: haematitic shale; b: haematitic shale; c: haematitic siltstone. Identification by Dalwitz, Bur. Min. Res.]

Proceeding north, after striking the Wilson-Cobar road, the country became a

heavier red again, with pine & box, a patch of belah, mulga, "mulga" etc. *Oedolimus* nymphs at Sandy Creek.

Site 15. ¹⁰⁰ Patch of ^{Genus nov. 48, *Azidota* sp.} mallee & spinifex a few ms. N of Sandy Cr. *Azidota* prob. not same as spinifex *Azidota* near Cond.

Very few *A. jungei* at Priory.

From Priory to Cobac the soil was mostly red with dark purple gravel. Gums were mostly absent, ^{gum} mulga & other small trees, also bushes less than 6ft. being common. Grass was very scarce, near No. 9. but there was a little low salt-lush. Mostly bare gravelly spaces. Saltbush, bare spaces, lack of grass & dominance of mulga progressively increased to Cobac.

Site 16. ¹⁰¹ *Pycnostictus seriatus* 3 of Cobac. Purple gravel ridge (sample). Very few "hoppers". *A. jungei* (very few).

Site 17. ¹⁰² Cobac. *Amalitia maculata*, *Pycnostictus seriatus*, *Austroicetes arida*, *Tapesta* sp. Red brown soil, subsoil exposed over ca. half the area. Small shrubs ca. 18cm. high & various small acacia & other on all trees. ^{patches of} sparse pasture (not No. 9) Bot. sample & photos 4-6.

Stock Insp. took me to a Prosopis
 10 ms. E of Cobas where there was good
 pasture. (Site ¹⁰³ 8) *Pereskia fuscomaculata*, *Austroicetes*
^{*cruciata*, *Chotoicetes tenuifera*}
 sparsely pastured large in flowering
 spaces. *Acacia homalophylla* (mallee, very
 few; yarran, the tree referred to as
 mallee or mallee in last 100 miles;
 Currant-bush; iron-wood, few; mild
 orange, few; blue-bush; sandalwood;
^{Hakka} pin-bush; turpentine. *Dedalen* & nymphs
 All *Dedalen* nymphs referred to so
 far have been few in no. & recently
 hatched. Photos 7-9 are respectively
 of mallee, pin-bush & yarran. Several
 botanical specimens, including mallee, ^{*Leijera parviflora*}
 site ¹⁰⁴ 19. 25 ms. N of Cobas. Red soil, somewhat
 crumbly (presumably "brown" of Prescott). Small
 gums like stunted *E. poplarifolia*, various
 acacias. Photo 10 - ~~the~~ open side of
 road - much bare ground, a grassy like wire
 grass, acacias. Photo 11 - right hand of
 road - gums & kangaroo grass. So far *E. gum*
 has been rare, associated with gums.

Hardly any saltbush. Yuccas, sometimes quite large, numerous along this section. Practically no grasshoppers at this site. Very dry. A few nymphs, of which the largest seen collected. Heteroptera caught on Cal somewhere in this section.

site 20. ¹⁰⁵ 38 ms. N of Cedar. ^{beenus nov. 16(?)} Azelota sp. Small gums, & various acacias. Very well grassed with dense tufted grass. ^{Aristida ramosa} leaving some small spaces between. One dominant sp. & a silvery rounded tufted sp. ^{Amphipogon strictus} Damples of both. All dead. A few small patches "Kangaroo grass". Several spp. identified, but Comp. rare. Several Rustieria definitely associated with K. grass clumps. One prot. Cherm. Definitely along grass association. Photo 12 (showing silvery grass in dom. grass.) Euphorbia nymphs. Photo 1 of roll 3 showing general appearance of country at site 2.

site 21. ¹⁰⁶ Top of gravelly ridge at 55 ms. ^{interioris} Omalitina maculata, Azelota sp., ^{Austroicetes} Open. Small gums, acacias, etc. Patches of grass like kangaroo grass, mostly open. Photo 2, from ca. 62 ms. the soil becomes much

*Anastroicetes interioris**Aristida arenaria*

Dissoecaspis

Dissoecaspis

Dissoecaspis

Dissoecaspis

Dissoecaspis

Dissoecaspis paradoxus

10

E

Austroicetes pusilla

Mesaba cultata cultata (n) (R)

Zabrata seripes sp. n.

Basia echinopsila

Sclerolaena divaricata



Chloris truncata

Dichanthium sericeum



111

Moraba cultrata cultrata (R)

Austroicetes cruciata

A. interioris

112

113

N*Chortocetes tenuifera**Dichanthium sericeum*

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H

Oct 24

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175

P. stylifera sept.

176

P. stylifera sept.

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occurs for some miles. Finally low and
Mungindi more heath heavy plain.

Mr. Young at Noondoo station
said that the so-called clay-panes in the
Noondoo area could be recognized by
their association of white-wood,
leopard-wood & lime-bush.

Mungindi-Moree. ^{top} choppers bend
budding in various directions.

15 mi N of Currigundi :- loose
swamp, flint & choppers all along route.
Perchidrama.

In general, the country from
Mungindi to Cullacabri by this route
was very heavy. Towards Mungindi &
Bumarka, belah country occurred in
addition to coolabah, while farther
south east ripahell grass plains &
coolabah. The red ridge along which
the Mungindi-Coll. road partly runs
is apparently quite exceptional to the
surrounding country. Similarly from
Coll. to Walgett the road runs

along a ^{gravelly} red bridge for perhaps 30 m.
 (box, ^(budda) sandalwood), but the surrounding
 country is black. Towards Walgett,
 especially south of Walgett, the heavy
 soil is very distinctly not black, but
 quite a pale grey-brown, and similar
 to much in the Bourke-Brewarrina
 district. The soil at Dirranbandi by
 contrast would be black. This soil
 continues in plain country with belts
 of coolabah for half way to Coonamb.
 There are several clay pans with
 whitewood, a bush similar to lime-
 bush, and sometimes even leopard-
 wood. These are frequently reddish.

From half-way onwards there is
 a great deal of clay-pan & semi-clay-
 pan country, though the coolabals
 remain. The country is mainly lighter
 shadier in appearance, forms more
 definite banks when cut at the
 roadsides, & does not crack much.
 It resembles much of the country

north of Warren. Heavier areas are scattered in it, especially in low-lying places, gullies, etc. ~~that the~~ The pastures were poor owing to drought, but Mitchell grass would probably be less in evidence. No wheat at all along the road as far as Coonamble.

Ellis said the edges of clay-pans were preferred for laying, where the soil is firm, but not so hard.

South of Coonamble the soil is at first of the clay-pan type - hard, slippery when wet, with a very thin ^{silt} sandy layer on top - but the dominant gum is almost at once *E. poplaffolia*. Treeless areas numerous. A few white-wood. Pasture very short, sparse, apparently mainly herbage. Half-grown Chen hoppers were numerous, also *Plakia* sp. (specimens & soil sample). The further south one goes the ^{greater the} more sandy the element in the soil, & the closer the trees, until the ^{reddish} sandy loam

like that

of Forbes is approached ~~in the~~ ~~soil~~ ~~of the~~ ~~latter~~ ~~type~~ ~~continues~~ ~~to~~ ~~Dubbo~~ ~~where~~ ~~a~~ ~~certain~~ ~~amount~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~richer~~ ~~brick-red~~ ~~is~~ ~~encountered~~.

Took the road from Dubbo to Teringela, which passes over the Sappa Bidge range. After the first 5ms. dense, but rather low timber (small euc., pine, iron^{oak} wood) in hilly country are continuous to within 5ms. of Teringela. The soil is somewhat podsolised, but at Teringela, & from there to Parkes, it is ochre brick-red, sometimes with white quartz pebbles. The range continues at a distance of ca. 5-15 ms. to E of road as far as Parkes. For actual distance from Forbes, see earlier notes.

Between Parkes & Forbes the soil gradually lightens somewhat in colour.